AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a printing apparatus having stored therein in advance predetermined image data so as to correspond to ~~which prints~~ payment transaction print data generated based on ~~a basis of~~ input information concerning merchandise sales, the printing apparatus being arranged to print the predetermined image data by adding the image data upon receipt of the payment transaction print data by the printing apparatus, ~~with addition of predetermined image data,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining the payment transaction print data;

retrieving a predetermined character string indicative of a print position of the image data to be printed from the payment transaction print data;

obtaining a line number specified by the retrieved predetermined character string; and

adding the image data to the payment transaction print data based on the obtained line number so as to print the image data with a position specified by the line number serving as a reference to obtain, ~~thereby obtaining~~ a synthesized print result.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an image addition setting command based on the obtained line number; and

transmitting the payment transaction print data and the image addition setting command to the printing apparatus;

wherein the printing apparatus adds the image data to the payment transaction print data based on a result of analysis of the image addition setting command.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined character string is a start character string indicative of a position to start addition of the image data; and

wherein, in the step of obtaining the line number, a line number specified by the start character string is obtained.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined character string is made up of a start character string indicative of a position to start addition of the image data, and an end character string indicative of a position to end addition of the image data;

wherein, in the step of obtaining the line number, a plurality of line numbers to be specified by the start character string and by the end character string are obtained.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the printing apparatus has stored therein a plurality of image data files which are files of the image data, the method further comprising the steps of:

storing a definition table in which the start character string and the end character string are correlated with image designation data for designating an image data file out of a plurality of image data files stored in the printing apparatus; and

obtaining, from the definition table, image designation data which are related to the extracted start character string and the end character string,

wherein, in the step of generating the image addition setting command, the image addition setting command is generated on the basis of the obtained line number and the image designation data.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of setting at least one of the start character string and the end character string.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of setting image designation data in which the image designation data are set in correlation with at least one of the start character string and the end character string to be set in the step of setting the character string.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of setting the line number in which, in the step of obtaining the line number, setting is made as to which is obtained between the line number in the start character string and the line number which is one line below the start character string, and setting is made as to which is obtained between the line number in the end character string and the line number which is one line above the end character string.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 2 in which, in case the printing apparatus is capable of performing color printing, the method further comprises the step of setting a printing color of the image data, wherein the image addition setting command includes a parameter showing the printing color.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A printer driver for enabling a computer to execute the steps of the method of controlling a printing apparatus according to claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus which stores therein in advance predetermined image data so as to correspond ~~to generate receipt print data by adding image data~~ to payment transaction print data generated by a host computer based on input information concerning merchandise sales, the printing apparatus being arranged to print the predetermined image data upon receipt of the payment transaction print data by the printing apparatus, the printing apparatus comprising:

means for storing the image data;

means for obtaining the payment transaction print data from the host computer;

means for obtaining from the host computer an image addition setting command for printing with the image data being added;

means for analyzing the image addition setting command to thereby obtain a line number indicative of a print position of the image data; and

means for generating the receipt print data by adding the image data to the payment transaction print data based on the line number.

14. (Original) The printing apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

' means for performing color printing by using a primary color and at least one secondary color other than the primary color,

wherein the means for performing color printing prints the payment transaction print data in the primary color and the image data in said at least one secondary color.

15. (Original) A merchandise sales data processing apparatus having: the printing apparatus according to claim 13; and a host computer which controls the printing apparatus by transmitting the payment transaction print data and the image addition setting command to the printing apparatus,

wherein the host computer comprises:

means for generating the payment transaction print data;

means for retrieving a predetermined character string indicative of a print position of the image data to be printed from the payment transaction print data;

means for obtaining the line number specified by the extracted predetermined character string;

means for generating the image addition setting command based on the obtained line number; and

means for transmitting the payment transaction print data and the image addition setting command to the printing apparatus.

16. (Original) A POS system comprising:

the merchandise sales data processing apparatus according to claim 15; and

a POS server for managing the merchandise sales data processing apparatus, the POS server being connected to the merchandise sales data processing apparatus through a network.

17. (Cancelled)